

In response to a query concerning the assistance given to the National Student Association, Rivers and Bates said:

"We have noted the statement by the leaders of the National Student Association concerning the help the Association has received from the Central Intelligence Agency for the purpose of countering Communist domination of foreign student associations throughout the world. It should be emphasized that the sole reason for CIA financial assistance was to provide necessary support for overseas activities of the National Student Association.

We are not surprised by the furor raised by the disclosure. We are surprised that there are those who forget that preserving freedom has been and remains the major goal of our Government. It is the hearthstone of our foreign policy. It is the reason for our being in Viet Nam.

We all know that the Communists, through the use of worldwide front organizations, have made every effort to control people and ideas. It is no secret that since the end of World War II, the Communists concentrated on student organizations throughout the free world and, by 1950, were successful to the point that they had little opposition. Patriotic and worried students in the United States were quick to recognize the situation. Leaders of their organization sought appropriate help. It was forthcoming -- and has now served its purpose.

We now know that the courage and dedication of American students who participated in international student congresses succeeded in preventing the Communist take-over of many student organizations in the free world.

The CIA is to be commended for its foresight. As usual, it can now stand by for another assault. They and the FBI are the only agencies in Government who are forced to measure their success on the basis of the attacks made by misguided friends and determined foes."